

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated July 2, 2003, claims 1-43 were examined with the result that claims 1-6, 8-18 and 20-42 were allowed while claims 7, 19 and 43 were objected to by the Examiner. In response, Applicant has canceled claims 7 and 19, and rewritten claims 8, 20 and 43. In view of the above amendments and following remarks, reconsideration of this application is requested.

In the Office Action, claim 43 was objected to because of a typographical error. In response, Applicant has replaced the original word "fraction" with the proper word "fracture" as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicant believes claim 43 is now allowable.

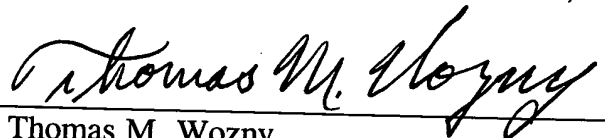
In the Office Action, claims 7 and 19 were objected to as setting forth a range which had an upper limit higher than the limit set forth in the corresponding independent claims from which they depend. In response, Applicant has canceled claims 7 and 19. In addition, the cancellation of claims 7 and 19 also required correcting the dependency of claims 8 and 20. Claim 8 now depends from claim 1 and claim 20 now depends from claim 13.

In view of the above amendments and comments, Applicant believes claims 1-6, 8-18 and 20-43 are now all allowable.

Respectfully submitted,

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